



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 29 2006

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Alaska Groundfish Harvest Specifications Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The Draft EIS provides decision-makers and the public with an evaluation of the environmental, social, and economic effects of alternative harvest strategies for the federally managed groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). The EIS examines alternative harvest strategies that comply with Federal regulations, the Fishery Management Plans for the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The harvest strategies are applied to the best available scientific information to derive the total allowable catch for the groundfish fisheries.

The DEIS is also accessible electronically through the NMFS Alaska Region's website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/analyses/specs/eis/default.htm>. Additional printed copies of the DEIS may be requested from this website.

Comments or questions on this document submitted during the agency's 45-day public comment period must be received by October 23, 2006. Written comments should be submitted by mail to Robert D. Mecum, Acting Administrator, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802. Comments may be submitted by facsimile (fax) to (907) 586-7557. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to DEIS.Specifications@noaa.gov; include in the comment subject line the following document identifier: DEIS comment. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to nepa.comments@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



Printed on Recycled Paper

